आप पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम के साथ अनिवार्य रूप से गेहूं और चावल के साथ मोटे अनाज की जिस भी रखें। अब, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं मंत्री जी से, इतनी बात कहने के बाद, कि अभी तक मोटे अनाज को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के द्वारा कहां-कहां उन्होंने भेजने का प्रयास किया है? और कौन-कौन सा जिस उसमें शामिल किया गया है? और, उसकी तादाद क्या है?

SHRI A. K. ANTONY : We have already distributed more than one lakh tonnes of coarse grains to States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan. If there is more demand from States we are prepared to give more quantity of coarse grains. As I said in my reply to the earlier question, we are convinced that we have to popularise the coarse grains. Otherwise, in the long run we would feel difficulty. So, the Union Government has to take all measures to popularise coarse grains. We would request the State Governments also to take more steps to popularise these grains.

SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : May I submit with all humility at my command that the new Members should be given a little more consideration in asking supplementaries? I have been here for the last one year and during this one year I got only one opportunity. This is my humble submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I thought you are a very old Member.

SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : May I know from the hon. Minister, through you, in addition to monitoring of the Public Distribution System and other matters as stated by my hon. friend, what steps are being taken by the Government to maintain the standard of essential commodities supplied by the Government through the PDS ? There are several complaints that sub-standard essential commodities are being supplied which are not fit for human consumption. What steps is the Government taking to check malpractices in the supply of all essential commodities ?

SHRI A. K. ANTONY : Sir, as the hon. Member pointed out, we are getting complaints about the bad quality of articles. For that we have requested the State Governments to conduct more and more surprise checks and continuous verification of the fair price shops. Wherever they find that articles of bad quality are being supplied, the guilty should be prosecuted under the Essential Commodities Act. The Central Government and the FCI are also taking more steps to improve the system.

Inadequate transport facilities for coal

*13. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY† :

SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge quantity of coal is lying at the mines because of inadequate transport facilities; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken so far or propose to take for its early transportation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (Shri Ajit Kumar Panja) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Coal stocks at the pitheads have been increasing with most of the coal companies. One of the reasons for increase in these stocks in mismatch between production and transport capacities in some coal producing areas. Coal companies have been advised to make all efforts to reduce these stocks. They are improving their coordination with Railways for improving offtake by rail. To improve the offtake by road, two schemes

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sarada Mohanty.

have been formulated for selling coal under the Liberalised Sale Scheme (LSS). LSS-I is for small buyers requiring coal from one truck to 1000 tonnes, while LSS-II is for major consumers requiring 10,000 tonnes and above. Recently Coal India Ltd. have also launched a scheme for developing wholesale trade in coal. Under this scheme, so the subsidiary companies of Coal India Ltd. will appoint wholesale Traders on the basis of applications invited through open advertisements. It is stipulated that each dealer shall lift at least 3,000 tonnes of coal per month by road.

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether there is any proposal from the mining companies and large coal consumers to purchase their own wagons for transportation of coal rrom coal fields to their places in order to overcome the short supply of wagons by the Railways. If so, what decision has been taken by the Government on this proposal? I would also like to know from the Minister whether the Government is considering a proposal to make transport and trading of coal free. If yes, what has been the decision thereon ?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, so far as the purchase of wagons is concerned, various discussions took place but no decision has yet been taken. My answer to part B of his question is, no, Sir.

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that huge quantity of cool is being stolen regularly by some racketeers through trucks with the connivance of the coal-field security staff and others. What action has been taken by the Government to stop these thefts ? How many such areas have come to the notice of the Government and what penal action has been taken against the guilty?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, as far as coal thefts are concerned, I don't think it arises out of this question. As far as I know, various cases of coal thefts, particularly in the Eastern Coalfields and BCCL have been reported. In those cases FIRs have been lodged and steps have been taken. The difficulty the companies face is that the law and order is wholly with the States concerned. Therefore, we are trying to coordinate with the authorities concerned. The Secretary, Coal, had a direct talk with the various officers of the States and the Chairman also took it up with the State authorities, particularly of Bihar and Bengal.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Sir, the Minister has said in his reply :

> "....two schemes have been formulated for selling coal under the Liberalised Sale Scheme (LSS). LSS-I is for small buyers requiring coal from the truck to 1000 tonnes, while LSS-II is for major consumer requiring 10,000 tonnes and above."

So, since the introduction of this new scheme, how much quantity of coal and how much in terms of value is transported per day from various coal companies? And has the coal offtake increased after the introduction of the Liberalised Sale Scheme ?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, this scheme LSS-I from April, 1992 to February, 1993, we have got the figures, it is 38.40 lakh tonnes—more people participated in this scheme and helped in the transportation of coal. So far as LSS-II is concerned, it is 10.67 lakh tonnes. LSS-II scheme was started, as the hon. Member knows, in August, 1992. So, the figure relating to LSS.II is for the period ranging from August, 1992 to February, 1993.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: The hon. Minister has mentioned that one of the reasons for the increase in the stock is mismatch between production and transport capacities. What are the other reasons ?

और दूसरे क्या आपने यह समझा है कि जो आप होलसेल ट्रेडर्स को दे रहे हैं उनके एजेंट बना देंगे सब्सडरी कंपनी को तो क्या इससे मामला सुलझ जाएगा? इसकी स्कीम क्या है? इसके दो हिस्से हैं। पहला दूसरे रीजंस क्या हैं? स्टॉक हैड पर जमा होना है वन आफ दी रीजन यह है और इसके उठाने के लिए आपने नई स्कीम बनाई है कि आप जो सब्सडरी कंपनीज हैं वह कुछ निजी ट्रेडर्स को क्या अभी तक ठेका देंगे या एजेंसी देंगे? तो क्या इस स्कीम को जरा डिटेल्स बताएंगे?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, there are other reasons also. It is not only the mismatch between the production and the transport capacities be it by rail, road or sea but, Sir, sometimes the customers indicate a higher demand thinking that they must indicate a higher demand, as a matter of abundant caution, so that their coal supply is made all right. Now, the Planning Commission fixes the target based on the demand pattern study and, accordingly, production takes place. Therefore, although production takes place as per the target fixed, sometimes, the customers do not take the full quantity demanded for various reasons : (a) They have put up a higher demand; (o) Now, since we are emphasising on the cash-and-carry method, the customers are having some difficulty in arranging funds for the purpose of taking possession of the product; (c) Sometimes, the customers, specially, the thermal power plants, want to build up sufficient stock. Right now, we are facing this problem. Also, rainy season is coming. They are putting up their demand at a higher level and we are raising stocks accordingly. At the end, it transpires that so much demand was not there and they did it as a matter of caution. Now, this is a continuous process. I can't blame them either. They must look after the power situation also. But, we hold dialogues with various people. We try to find out a reasonable solution by having discussions with various agencies—the power houses, that is, our customers, and the railway carriers, the road transport carriers and also the people participating in the wholesale trade.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : आपने कहा कि एजेंट भी बनाएंगे?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : I have already said that LSS-I was from 1985 continuing up till now. LSS-II is from 1992 and the wholesale trade has not yet been taken up. We have advertised. But this will not solve all the problems. These are some of the steps that we are taking for inviting more people to participate and carry coal.

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM BOTSWANA

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, we have with us, seated in the Special Box, Members of a Parliamentary Delegation from Botswana, currently on a visit to our country under the distinguished leadership of His Excellency Mr. MP. K. Nwako, Speaker of the National Assembly of Botswana. On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to the Leader and other Members of the Delegation and wish our distinguished guests an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here, they would be able to see and learn more about our parliamentary system, our country and our people, and their visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between India and Botswana. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Members of the National Assembly and the friendly people of Botswana.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS—(CONTD.)

(Q. No. 183 Contd.)

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, reply speaks of the inefficiency of the coal companies under the efficient Minister. I am sorry to say that he is protecting the coal companies ins-

teald of pulling them up. It is a very peculiar phenomenon that on the one hand the industry and the people are starved of coal supply and on the other hand there are stocks lying in the pit-heads. So, we are loosing revenue on many scores and the hon. Minister has given a solution that he is going to have a system of wholesale trading for which applications were invited and so on and so forth. This is going to create another problem and corruption will be at the highest level in the appointment of wholesale dealers.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to prevail upon the coal companies to have their own staff at district and State levels so that the consumer will be able to get coal from these depots and stocks at the pithead will be lessened. Immediate steps should be taken to see that the inventory is on the lower side and the stocks do not pile up. This will, in turn, ensure the efficiency of the Coal Department.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, this is a good suggestion and his suggestion is noted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Cairman, Sir, I would like to say in all humility that the Minister in his reply to the question has missed the point completely. I think there are two reasons for the decline in the offtake. One is, large-scale theft, as has already been pointed out, and large-scale illegal mining, If the Minister cares to look into the figures of the road sales, he will find that they have declines depsite all the schemes that the Government has put forward and they are not likely to pick up either as long as theft and illegal mining take place. The second is, the pitheads stocks are fictional in the sense they have a layer of coal on the top. A large part of this is what is called overburden, underneath is all overburden. It is all stones, it is not coal. Now, in the light of this, I would like to ask the Minister whether he has any plans to constitute a multi-disciplinary task force consisting of representatives of the Government of India, and if necessary, the State Governments, representatives drawn from various departments including the police, which will go into it and see that both illegal mining and theft as well as these fictional pithead stocks are all taken control of.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, as I have already stated, I am not ruling out the rasons given by the hon. Member for the theft and illegal mining taking place. But they are not, as per the information received, of such high volume that the demand for coal has come down. That is not so, Still, we are taking steps by taking up the matter with the State Governments, as I have answered in reply to the earlier question, so that theft could be minimised as far as possible.

So far as constitution of a multi-disciplinary task force is concerned, looking at these problems, similar type of committees were appointed so many times since nationalisation. And, Sir, the reports are already available and, therefore, what I am doing is that with the experts of my Department, I am calling out points from those very large number of reports which are already avaljable—they are all very valuable reports—and am trying to see how many of them have already been implemented. If some more is required to be done, thte suggestion given by the honourable Member will certainly be looked into.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, this sort of stockpiling of coal is regular phenomenon and it is not a new thing and it has been taking place for a long time. But Ministers after Ministers have failed to take action to improve the situation. While, on the one hand, there is stockpiling, on the other hand, there are innumerable instances of running short of

coal by different productive sectors of the economy including thermal plants. In view of this twin problem of stockpiling and running short of coal, I would like to know whether the Government will consider taking punitive measures to ensure that the buyers who place orders with the coal companies, but do not lift the stocks, are taken to task. This is part one of my question.

The second part of my question is whether the Minister will sit down with the Ministry of Railways to ensure that wagons are put through on time and also coal supply, particularly to the strategic sector of production, is maintained.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : So far as the first part of his question is concerned, Sir, the buyers are our best customers and certainly, we go by the theory that we have to give them the best quality of coal in the right quantity. CIL being a company believes in the theory that the buyers are always correct, that the customers are always correct. Still we are trying—it is a question of business of a company—with the buyers and dialogues take place at the CIL level and at the subsidiary level so that whatever quantity they ask for, as I have already answered, is given and when they supply it, they take it. There were instances when these supplies were not taken.

So far as the question of the Railways is concerned, it is a continuous processs. They carry 67 per cent of the coal in the country. Therefore, almost every day, either on telephone or at the table, positively every week the meeting of the Co-ordination Committee of the Secretaries takes place, not only with the Railways, but also with the power houses and others. Therefore, these two suggestions which have been given are already being implemented by the coal companies.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Muthu Mani.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI : Sir, I have a very simple question to ask.

Sir, Tamil Nadu is prepared to take coal from Maharashtra. But it is far way and it is also highly expensive so far as transportation is concerned. So, I want to know from the honourable Minister whether the Minister will permit Tamil Nadu to take coal from Andhra Pradesh as demanded by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, this has not yet been brought to my notice and I do not remember seeing any such letter or request from the Chief Minister. If such a request is received and brought to my notice, we will certainly get it examined.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI : Several times our Chief Minister has written. This is for your information.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 184.

कोयला उद्योग का राष्ट्रीयकरण

*184. **श्री वीरेन जे. शाह :**

डॉ. जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में कोयला उद्योग का राष्ट्रीयकरण होने के बाद से 1992-93 तक कोयले के उत्पादन में भारी वृद्धि हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां तो राष्ट्रीयकरण के समय कितने कोयला का उत्पादन होता था और वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान कितने कोयले का उत्पादन हुआ है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस अवधि में कोयले के मूल्यों में भी भारी वृद्धि हुई है;

(घ) यदि हां तो राष्ट्रीयकरण करते समय देश में कोयले का प्रति क्विंटल मूल्य क्या था और मार्च 1993 के दौरान कोयले की विभिन्न किस्मों का मूल्य क्या-क्या था ;

(ङ) क्या यह सच है कि इस अवधि के दौरान देश में कोयला उत्पादन की दर में वृद्धि हुई है; और

*सभा में यह प्रश्न डॉ० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन द्वारा पूछा गया।